

Remarks/Arguments

With reference to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2004, Applicants offer the following remarks and argument.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-12, 14-15, and 18-24 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-12, 14-15, and 18-24 were originally presented for examination in the prior amendment sent via facsimile on August 25, 2004. Originally filed = Claims 4, 7-8, 10, 13, and 16-17 were canceled.

In the Office Action mailed on November 17, 2004, all of the pending claims were subject to a restriction requirement, with Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-12, 14-15, and 18-20 deemed to be directed to Species I, and Claims 21-24 deemed to be directed to Species II.

Applicants have elected to pursue the invention of Species I and have canceled Claims 21-24

The claims now pending are claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-12, 14-15, and 18-20.

Election

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Species II, being claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-12, 14-15, 18-20. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for examination and allowance.

Conclusion

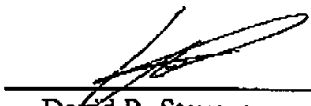
Based on the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims describe an invention that is properly allowable to the Applicants.

If any issues remain unresolved despite the present amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number shown below to arrange for a telephonic interview before issuing another Office Action.

Applicants would like to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for a thorough and competent examination and for courtesies extended to Applicants' Attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

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